

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment amends claims 1 and 3-5, and cancels claims 2 and 11-13 without prejudice to filing the same or similar claims in one or more divisional or continuation applications. Claims 1 and 3-10 are now pending in the application, of which claim 1 is independent. No new matter has been added and no new issues are raised.

Claim Amendments:

Claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter identified by the Examiner in original claim 2. In turn, claim 2 is cancelled. Consequently, claims 3-5 are amended to maintain proper dependency following the cancellation of claim 2. Claims 11-13 were previously withdrawn in response to a Restriction Requirement and are cancelled to expedite the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 6-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,153,377 to Bosak (Hereafter “Bosak”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the above amendments and the following arguments.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner identified claim 2 as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The above amendment amends claim 1 to include the subject matter of dependent claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant contends Bosak does not disclose, teach or suggest all the recited elements of claim 1. Hence, claims 1 and 6-10 are patentable in view of Bosak.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicant contends the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: December 17, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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